

As discussed during the interview, applicant's invention is directed to a portable scent delivery system which is worn by a user so that the user can walk around while receiving scent-laden air, directly to the nose. The purpose of this is for behavior control applications such as appetite suppressant, smoking cessation, and other aroma type therapy. As the Examiner will appreciate, individuals cannot always control when they may need aroma therapy, for example, when a person may need aroma therapy to help them quit smoking. The device of the present invention has been made in order to allow the user to employ the device at any time, for example, one might be hit with the craving for a cigarette while on a boat or plane. The present invention allows the user to employ the device while seated on the plane.

Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended herein. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims which have been amended herein to particularly emphasize the fact that the present invention is portable and is worn by the user during the times when he is walking around. Support for this amendment can be found on page 4, last paragraph of the specification. Claim 10 has also been amended herein to recite that the scent scrubber is housed in the case. Support for this amendment can be found on page 11, first full paragraph of the specification.

Respectfully, none of the art cited in this application either teaches or suggests a portable scent delivery system as claimed herein.

Claims 1-14 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Martin. Martin teaches a scent delivery system which is employed with a video system and which is stationary. In other words, Martin is not a portable system. Specifically, the Examiner should view Figs. 1 and 2 of Martin. In Fig. 1, Martin shows a scent delivery system affixed to a chair and employs gas delivery lines 48 and vacuum line 50 which are mounted in the floor below the chair. The user of the Martin system is wearing a pair of virtual reality viewing goggles 35. As disclosed in Martin, the scent is used in conjunction with the images provided to the user.

In Fig. 2 of Martin, the system is attached to a video system and is housed in a cabinet. As shown in Fig. 2 of Martin, the user is employing the scent delivery system in conjunction with visual images provided by the television.

Nowhere in Martin does it teach or suggest a stand alone portable scent delivery system which can be worn by the user so that the user can be portably receiving scent-laden air.

As discussed during the interview, applicant has reviewed all of the U.S. patents which have been cited as references herein and submits that none of them teach or suggest the present invention. Specifically, none of them teach a portable scent delivery system which comprises a case containing most of the components of the system which is worn by the user, a nasal interface and tubing which connects the nasal interface to the case.

A vast majority of the references are directed to scent delivery systems which are employed in conjunction with a video system and are intended for use in a theater, definitely not wearable by a user. See U.S. Patent Nos. 1,749,187; 2,144,190; 2,540,144; 2,562,959; 2,813,452; 2,905,049; 3,628,829; 3,795,438; 4,629,604; 5,949,522; and 6,169,595. The Examiner will note that the latter two patents, '522 and '595, are based on the parent application of the instant application. The Examiner will also note that Martin falls within this category in that it teaches a combination of video and scent delivery system.

Also, U.S. Patent No. 4,603,030 is illustrated as being employed with a movie theater and, specifically, being attached to the back chair in a movie theater, see Figs. 1 and 2.

U.S. Patent Nos. 4,407,585; 4,573,804; 5,055,822; and 5,321,669. None of the devices are directed to a portable scent delivery system worn by a user.

A number of the references are directed to aerosol bombs or aerosol dispensers which are intended to provide scent to a room or an area. Such devices have no nasal interface. See U.S. Patent Nos. 3,632,020; 5,023,020; 5,111,477; 5,175,791; 5,221,025; 5,342,584; 5,487,502; and 5,437,410.

There are a number of medical devices which are taught, for instance, U.S. Patent 4,310,307 is a device which is employed with a dentist's chair; U.S. Patent 5,287,576 provides a head support which provides scent to a patient during surgery; and U.S. Patent 5,109,839 is a face mask for use with a patient for delivering gases. As can be seen, none of these are portable systems.

Possibly, the closest device to the present invention is the one taught in U.S. Patent 4,955,945. This unitary device is affixed under the nose for providing scent directly to the nose. Although such a device can be worn by a user while the user is ambulatory, this device fails to meet a number of the claim limitations. Specifically, there is no case which is worn by the user and connected by means of tubing to a nasal interface wherein

Respectfully, applicant submits that none of the devices which are taught in the cited references teach or suggest a portable scent delivery system as defined by the claims herein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. A one-month extension of time is hereby requested and form PTO-2038 charging the appropriate fee is enclosed herewith. Should any additional fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization given to debit account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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to grant petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



which is worn
by a user,
said system

Three

1. (~~Twice~~ Amended) A portable scent delivery system comprising a scent generator which provides scent-laden air to a nasal interface by means of a single conduit, the nasal interface being adapted to be worn by a user of said system in close proximity to the user's nasal cavity, said nasal interface thereby providing said scent-laden air directly to said user's nasal cavity, said scent generator housed in a case which is adapted to be worn by on the user's body, such that the user is ambulatory when wearing said case, said user thereby making said system portable.

housed in said case

10. The system of claim 8 further comprising a scent scrubber connected to said exhaust conduit for removing scent from said scent-laden air contained in said exhaust conduit.

(which is worn by a user, said system)

11. ^{Three} (Twice Amended) A portable scent delivery system

comprising:

(~~comprising~~) the user's body such that the user is ambulatory when wearing said case;
a case adapted to be worn by a user, thereby making the system

portable;

a fan for moving scent-laden air through the system, said fan housed in said case;

one or more fragrance containers housed in said case, each of said fragrance containers having an inlet valve and an outlet valve, said inlet valve connected by means of inlet tubing to said fan;

a mixing bed housed in said case, said mixing bed having an inlet connected to said outlet valve of each of said fragrance containers by means of an outlet tubing and having an outlet connected to nasal tubing, said mixing bed forming a mixture of scent from scent from said fragrance containers;

a scent delivery device for wearing by ~~the~~ said user of said scent delivery system at the [wearer's] user's nose so as to deliver said mixture of scent directly to the user's nose and to receive said mixture of scent from the [wearer's] user's nose, said delivery device having an inlet connected to said nasal tubing and an outlet connected to exhaust tubing; and

an electrical source housed in said case, said electrical

source connected to said fan so that said fan can be



1. A portable scent delivery system which is worn by a user, said system comprising:

a scent generator which provides scent-laden air to a nasal interface by means of a single conduit, the nasal interface adapted to be worn by a user of said system in close proximity to the user's nasal cavity, said nasal interface thereby providing said scent-laden air directly to said user's nasal cavity, said scent generator housed in a case adapted to be worn by said user on the user's body such that said user is ambulatory when wearing said case thereby making said system portable.

10. The system of claim 8 further comprising a scent scrubber housed in said case connected to said exhaust conduit for removing scent from said scent-laden air contained in said exhaust conduit.

11. A portable scent delivery system which is worn by a user, said system comprising:

a case adapted to be worn by a user on the user's body such that said user is ambulatory when wearing said case thereby making the system portable;

a fan for moving scent-laden air through the system, said fan housed in said case;

each of

valve, said inlet valve connected by means of inlet tubing to said fan;

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a mixing bed housed in said case, said mixing bed having an inlet connected to said outlet valve of each of said fragrance containers by means of an outlet tubing and having an outlet connected to nasal tubing, said mixing bed forming a mixture of scent from scent from said fragrance containers;

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a scent delivery device for wearing by said user of said scent delivery system at the user's nose so as to deliver said mixture of scent directly to the user's nose and to remove said mixture of scent from the user's nose, said delivery device having an inlet connected to said nasal tubing and an outlet connected to exhaust tubing; and

an electrical source housed in said case, said electrical source providing electricity to said fan so that said fan can move scent-laden air through said system.